



**Schizophrenia  
& Psychosis**  
Action Alliance

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Supporting Severe Mental Illness Provisions of HR 7666**

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Rodgers:

On behalf of the of the [Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance](#) – an advocacy organization seeking to create a nationwide movement for systemic change to improve care, support and equity for millions of people living with schizophrenia and psychosis spectrum disorders – I am writing to express our support for many key provisions in the bipartisan Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act (HR 7666).

In particular, the legislation reauthorizes both the Interagency Severe Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) as well as the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Grant Program for Individuals with Severe Mental Illnesses. Because persons with serious mental disorders have a 10% lifetime risk of suicide, we are also pleased that HR 7666 authorizes the crisis care set-aside in the Mental Health Block Grant. In addition, S&PAA strongly supports new funding to increase uptake of the Collaborative Care Model, which is essential to expanding access to psychiatric treatment and mental health care in rural and underserved urban areas.

As the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act proceeds to consideration on the House floor, we also request that you consider the inclusion of the Reschenthaler/Trone Cost of Mental Illness Act (HR 7483). Earlier this year, S&PAA released a report entitled “Societal Costs of Schizophrenia and Related Disorders,” which identified the staggering direct and indirect costs of caring for people in the U.S. living with schizophrenia. The research revealed that schizophrenia cost the U.S. an estimated \$281.6 billion in 2020, with a significant amount of direct costs due to health care, incarceration, supportive housing, and homelessness. The Reschenthaler/Trone legislation would finance a definitive federal study documenting these costs – once and for all -- while also helping to resolve ongoing issues regarding the number of persons with schizophrenia residing in our nation through a new surveillance study.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues. We look forward to working with you as this important legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Gordon Lavigne  
Chief Executive Officer